



CommuniQUE

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TAKING A BITE OUT OF CRIME

Enhanced technology,
information-sharing with the
FBI, Marshals Service leads
to record number of criminal
alien removals

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INS NEWS *of Note*

IMPROVED INFORMATION-SHARING WITH FBI, MARSHALS SERVICE TAKES BITE OUT OF CRIME

“Because of information-sharing, Border Patrol agents are finding out much more about the people they apprehend—whether they are wanted, violent, and need to be taken off the streets.”

—David Fickett, enforcement-systems branch chief

WHEN Border Patrol agents in El Paso, Texas, caught an undocumented Mexican national hiding in some bushes April 9, they did not immediately begin the paperwork to return him to Mexico.

Instead, they turned Jose Alberto Garcia, 21, over to the El Paso Police Department after INS' automated biometric fingerprint identification (IDENT) system alerted them to an outstanding warrant for his arrest for attempted murder in Odessa, Texas.

Some 1,000 apprehensions

Since Sept. 11, IDENT combined with improved information-sharing between the INS, FBI, and U.S. Marshals has resulted in the apprehension of more than 1,000 fugitive criminal aliens—many of them wanted for serious, violent crimes—at U.S. border crossings and Border Patrol stations, airports, and INS district offices.

“Because of information-sharing, Border Patrol agents are finding out much more about the people they apprehend—whether they are wanted, violent, and need to be taken off the streets,” said David Fickett, enforcement-systems branch chief. “From where we stand, information-sharing is going very well.”

In February alone, the improved information-sharing helped Border Patrol agents identify four people wanted on charges of homicide, one for manslaughter, and one for attempted murder. Others apprehended that month were suspected of felony theft, grand theft, rape, and arson.

Information available on high-profile arrests for April include Jose Antonio Cisneros, wanted for murder in Dallas, and

Isidro Rosas-Ruiz, wanted in connection with the attempted murder of his wife and the murder of her 16-month-old daughter in Tucson, Ariz. Cisneros was taken into custody April 2 as he tried to enter the Naval Air Station in Fort Worth, Texas, and Rosas-Ruiz was arrested—without any identification—for public drunkenness in Knoxville, Tenn. IDENT positively identified both suspects.

“People can create false identities, use altered passports and counterfeit documents, and obtain legitimate documents with false identities,” INS spokesman Russ Bergeron said. “But their biometrics are always there, and if you have biometrics when you encounter them, you can definitely establish who they are. And if you know that person is a threat, their attempts at subterfuge can be defeated.”

FBI records linked

The U.S. Marshals Service began providing information to INS last August, but only after Sept. 11, and the heightened focus on border security, did the FBI agree to electronically link its criminal records with IDENT. In December, the FBI provided INS with the names of more than 81,000 criminal aliens wanted by the FBI and other federal, state, and local law-enforcement agencies.

Originally, IDENT was set up in 1994 to identify and track aliens who were repeatedly apprehended trying to enter the United States illegally. The system stores digital fingerprints, digital photographs, and other personal information (such as height, weight, tattoos, scars, etc.), enabling agents to run

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IDENT's digital fingerprints and photographs database enables agents to determine an alien's identity in about two minutes.

searches in about two minutes checking aliens against several databases to determine whether they are wanted by other law enforcement agencies or how many times they have been apprehended crossing the border illegally. This information, coupled with the threshold set by each U.S. Attorney for prosecution, helps INS determine when an individual should be detained and presented for prosecution or allowed to voluntarily return.

To date, some 85,000 'hits'

INS began widespread deployment of IDENT along the Southwest border in 1997, and it is now used at more than 400 sites along both borders as well as at some international airports, and asylum and district offices. To date, it has provided the agency with more than 85,000 "hits" and has assisted INS in presenting a record number of individuals for prosecution by U.S. Attorneys.

"Protecting Americans from the threat posed by criminal aliens is a top priority," Bergeron said. "The agency is fully committed to the effort, as is demonstrated by the record number of removals of criminal aliens from the United States in recent months."

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INS NEWS FROM *the Field*

HOULTON-BASED PLANE BEGINS PATROLLING MAINE'S REMOTE FORESTS, JAGGED COASTLINE

CALLS to tighten security along the northern border recently brought Border Patrol officials in Maine something they had been requesting for years—an airplane.

"We're ecstatic," said Roland "Butch" Richardson, Houlton Sector assistant chief patrol agent. "We've been waiting for a long time."

The sector received the six-passenger, single-engine Cessna 206 in February, and this month was assigned a permanent sector pilot, Richard B. Stairs out of McAllen, Texas, to fly it. Temporary Border Patrol pilots out of Yuma, Ariz., have been rotating in since February.

"It's made a big impact on the area," Richardson said. "Sometimes there's been activity that we just couldn't simply get to and check out."

The Cessna is the first Border Patrol plane to patrol Maine, which has the third-longest border of any state with Canada. The plane is patrolling the 616 miles of border, much of it unguarded forests in remote areas, as well as the 1,000 miles of jagged coastline. It is one of several new aircraft that the sectors bordering Canada recently received as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"All the northern sectors now have an aircraft," Richardson said. "We've been asking for a plane for a number of years, and I think the need here has been finally realized."

While it takes four and a half hours to drive across the state, he said, flying takes just over an hour. This enables the pilot to quickly monitor vast regions that Border Patrol ground units have indicated should be watched as well as respond quickly to sensors alerting a border crossing.

"In the past, it could take an hour over land to reach a location where a sensor has been activated," he said. "The plane can get there in a matter of minutes."



The Houlton Sector was assigned a permanent pilot this month to fly the Cessna 206 it recently acquired to patrol the Maine-Canadian border.

This cuts down on the amount of time that a ground unit would take to intercept a vehicle or determine whether a crossing was legitimate.

"The plane is a real force multiplier," Richardson said. "We've been able to identify some crossings that we didn't know about in the past."

Unlike in other parts of the country, the pilot does not land the plane and make arrests, rather the pilot stays with the activity until ground troops can come and investigate.

The plane and pilot are based at Houlton because that is where the sector headquarters is located and because of Houlton International Airport's proximity to the border, which literally forms part of its property line.

Richardson said no arrests have been made since the flights started in February, but ground troops are investigating who is crossing in these remote areas and why.

"They are definitely in places where they shouldn't be," he said.

HEADQUARTERS *News*

RESTRICTIONS ON TOURIST, STUDENT VISAS STIFFENED TO ENHANCE HOMELAND SECURITY

TO create “the appropriate balance” between enforcing the law and welcoming legitimate visitors, INS tightened rules April 8 governing visas for foreign students and visitors.

“While we recognize that the overwhelming majority of people who come to the United States as visitors are honest and law abiding, the events of Sept. 11 remind us that there will always be those who seek to cause us harm,” Commissioner James W. Ziglar said.

Under the new rules, tourist visas will be cut from six months to 30 days or less based on what INS inspectors determine to be “a period of time that is fair and reasonable for the completion of the purpose of the visit.”

In addition, the rules will immediately prohibit foreign visitors from enrolling in U.S. schools unless they had obtained student visas. Until now, foreign students have been allowed to begin classes if their student-visa applications were pending.

“These new rules strike the appropriate balance between INS’ mission to ensure that our nation’s immigration laws are followed and stop illegal immigration and our desire to welcome legitimate visitors to the United States,” Ziglar said.

While the new rules for student visas will take effect immediately, the rules for tourist visas will take effect this summer after a public comment period.

Once they go into effect, inspectors will interview international tourists upon arrival in the United States about the nature and purpose of their visit to determine what is “fair and reasonable.” If a “fair and reasonable” time cannot be determined, the INS will issue a visa for 30 days. “Fair and reasonable” is the same standard already used to determine the length of stay for business visitors.

Under the new rules, INS also will:

- Reduce the maximum stay for travelers on business visas to six months from the current 12 months.
- Require international visitors who intend to enroll in U.S. schools to make such plans known before entering the United States with some other visa status. Visitors with non-student

status would still be allowed to apply for student status inside the United States, but only if they declared their intent when they first applied to enter this country.

- Limit the conditions available to obtain an extension of stay and reduce the maximum length of extensions from one year to six months. Extensions will be granted for “unexpected or compelling humanitarian reasons,” such as medical treatment. The international visitors also must prove they have adequate financial resources to continue to stay in the United States and that they are maintaining a residency abroad.
- Recognize that some international visitors, such as certain retirees who own vacation homes in the United States, may wish to remain for longer than six months. The proposed rules will allow extensions of stay in such cases.
- Deny discretionary relief to persons with a final order of removal who fail to surrender for removal within 30 days of the final order. Those who fail to surrender as required will be denied discretionary relief from removal—including asylum, adjustment to permanent resident status, change of status, waivers of inadmissibility for immigrants, cancellation of removal, voluntary removal, etc.—at any time while they remain in the United States and for a period of ten years after their departure from the United States.

INS NEWS *of Note*

FEDERAL AUTHORITIES ARREST HUNDREDS OF AIRPORT WORKERS AROUND THE NATION

HUNDREDS of airport workers with access to high-security areas were recently arrested around the country on charges ranging from immigration violations to lying about past criminal convictions.

More than 450 arrested

Operation Tarmac—a multi-agency effort designed to tighten security among airport employees following Sept. 11—as of the end of April has resulted in arrests and indictments of more than 450 workers at 15 airports. These included more than 100 workers at Washington, D.C., area airports

arrested April 23 on a variety of charges, including immigration and security credentials fraud.

“What this investigation uncovered should be a wake-up call for every airport in America,” Attorney General John Ashcroft said at a press conference April 23. “As all Americans are painfully aware, Dulles International Airport—just miles from where we are

today—was one of the airports from which terrorists boarded the airplanes that were crashed into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the field in Pennsylvania on Sept. 11.

“Our response has been to weave a web of terrorism prevention that brings together all agencies of justice and every level of law enforcement,” he continued. “Let me be clear. There will be zero tolerance of security breaches at our nation’s airports.”

Some of the airport workers arrested were illegal aliens; others were charged with offenses related to false statements on applications or fraudulent use of identification documents and/or social security cards

or numbers. They were employed by private companies, such as those that clean airplanes or operate airport restaurants, and had security badges allowing access to sensitive and secured areas of the airport, such as ramps, runways, aircraft, and areas where aircraft are fueled and where airplane food is prepared.

If convicted, many of the defendants face maximum penalties that range from two to 10 years in prison, plus fines of up to \$250,000 and deportation, Ashcroft said.

Background security standards checked

Under Operation Tarmac, the U.S. Customs Service, Department of Transportation Office of the Inspector General, FBI, INS, Marshals Service, Social Security Administration, and state and local law enforcement agencies are working together to ensure that all airport workers with access to security-sensitive areas meet certain background security standards and verify that all airport employees are properly documented and authorized to work in the United States.

“We work best when we work together. I thank each of these organizations for helping to make our airports safer and our citizens more secure,” Ashcroft said. “They are a tribute to law enforcement, to the nation, and to the ideal of freedom defended through law to which we all aspire.”

Investigations and arrests have been made to date at most major airports, including those in Atlanta; Baltimore; Boston; Charlotte, N.C.; Dallas-Fort Worth; Las Vegas; Orlando, Fla.; Phoenix; Portland, Ore.; Sacramento, Calif.; Salt Lake City; San Diego; San Francisco; San Jose, Calif.; and Seattle.

No terrorism ties

Joseph Greene, acting deputy executive associate commissioner for field operations, said none of the workers arrested by INS officials is suspected of any connection to terrorism.

“Given the number of employers and employees involved, comparatively few arrests of unauthorized aliens have taken place at work sites,” he said.

s airports.”

INS NEWS FROM the Field

NEWARK DISTRICT HELPS SEPT. 11 VICTIMS, FAMILIES WITH THEIR SUFFERING, PAPERWORK



This article is the third in a series of first-person accounts by INS people and partners detailing their contributions to the search, rescue, and relief efforts following Sept. 11. This article is about the experience of a Newark District adjudications officer, who was one of six INS officers assigned to the Family Assistance Center at Liberty State Park in New Jersey. The

center, which opened Tuesday, Sept. 18, provided centralized social and government services to Sept. 11 victims and their families.

JOSE Perez said he will always remember the woman who left her purse in the World Trade Center—whose contents included her alien resident card—as she fled her 56th floor office for safety on Sept. 11.

“When I said the word ‘building,’” the poor woman almost went into shock,” he said. “She had to be calmed down by a mental health worker and her two daughters who were standing by.”

The woman had barely made it out of the World Trade Center before it collapsed and had lost some of her co-workers. The idea of having to appear at the INS building in Newark to apply for a new alien resident card was making her very distraught, he remembered.

“Obviously, she was traumatized and afraid of entering a tall building,” Perez said. “We made accommodations so that she only had to enter the first floor of the INS building, waived the required fee, and [arranged for] a designated contact INS person to process her application.”

Perez and the other Newark District officers staffing the INS table at Liberty State Park through mid-November assisted several World Trade Center victims and their families each day with a variety of immigration concerns. The officers worked in two shifts, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week. The goal was simply to prevent victims and their families from standing in line and to ensure that the district did everything possible to meet constituents’ needs during this tragedy.

“For some people, this meant replacing lost documents. For others, it involved issues of status and eligibility,” said Kerry Gill, the district’s public affairs officer. “And for others, it meant just lending a caring ear as their losses became more real.”

Individuals who came to the desk received a special referral to the District Office where they met with a supervisory officer to determine what action was needed to meet their needs.

“We also provided a telephone number of an INS contact person to address any questions or concerns that might arise related to the twin towers victims,” Perez said.

For their efforts, Perez and the officers were recognized with letters of appreciation from New

Jersey’s Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco. These included Andreas Charalambous, Lynn Durko, Giovanna Pinto, Yocasta Reyna, and Angelo Valentino.

“This was an unforgettable experience for all the INS officers who were involved in this relief effort,” Perez said. “Not only did we provide information and instructions on their individual immigration matters, but we could not escape being touched by the pain and the suffering of losing a loved one.”



Newark District officers pose with one of the letters of appreciation from New Jersey’s Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco they received for assisting Sept. 11 victims and their families at Liberty State Park. Pictured from left to right are Giovanna Pinto, Jose Perez, Lynn Durko, Angelo Valentino (holding the letter featuring a picture of the World Trade Center), Yocasta Reyna, and Andreas Charalambous.

INS LEADING FEDERAL NARCOTICS PROSECUTIONS IN A WASHINGTON STATE METH HOTBED COUNTY

MEXICAN organized crime groups are using the Interstate-5 corridor to traffic methamphetamine, one of the most dangerous and addictive drugs to hit the United States, primarily on the West Coast. People addicted to the drug, commonly known as “meth,” often neglect and abuse their spouses and children; become violent, paranoid, and combative; and get involved with felony crimes.

In Washington State—which ranks second in the nation behind California in the number of meth lab busts by police—INS is a leader in the fight against narcotic traffickers.

INS as an enforcement leader

“I am a believer in the idea that INS can do great things as a leading force in targeting federal-level narcotics traffickers together with state, county, and local agencies,” said INS Special Agent Matt Spelsberg of the Thurston County Narcotics Task Force (TNT). “This is especially true in areas of our country, such as Western Washington, where the large-scale/wholesale quantities are controlled by foreign national-led organized crime.”

In Thurston County where Spelsberg is assigned, INS’ leadership in federal upper-level narcotics prosecutions has led to the arrest and conviction of foreign nationals all over Western Washington, Oregon, and California and record large-scale seizures of narcotics and assets.

“The INS Olympia office has also been successful in adding criminal asset forfeitures to indictments in the effort with the task force to limit the resources available to organized criminal groups,” Spelsberg said. “In several instances, the defendants were convicted federally of a



About 12 pounds of meth, worth about \$435,000 on the street, seized last year.



INS Agent Matt Spelsberg, assigned full time to the Thurston County Narcotics Task Force under the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) federal designation, with two pounds of meth and one pound of cocaine seized in a February bust.

charge such as bank fraud as well as a more traditional INS violation such as illegal reentry after deportation.”

Other INS prosecutions for federal offenses include possession of counterfeit currency, narcotics trafficking, and unlawful possession of firearms.

Assignment of a full-time INS agent

Spelsberg is assigned full time to the task force under the county’s High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) designation, a federal program set up to enable law enforcement agencies to collaborate in zeroing in on “centers” of major drug production, manufacturing, importation, or distribution. The Northwest HIDTA includes several Washington counties along the Interstate-5 corridor where, besides meth, Mexican black tar heroin and cocaine trafficking are also a problem.

“In the past, it was most common for INS agents to participate with task forces primarily in a secondary or support role,”

Spelsberg said. “The idea of having an agent assigned full time due to the designation of the jurisdiction where the task force is found as a HIDTA is relatively new.”

Thurston County is next to Pierce County, also part of the HIDTA, which ranks third nationally behind Bakersfield and Riverside counties in California in the number of meth labs busted by police. Despite its more rural population, Thurston County has the third highest number of lab busts in Washington state.

Captain Jim Chamberlain, the task force’s commander, said since the majority of defendants in upper-level narcotics busts are foreign nationals, having INS on the taskforce full time has been invaluable.

Do you know of any INS employee who has made a major contribution to a local police department’s law enforcement operations? Ask them to e-mail the *Communiqué* about their experiences at ins@casals.com.

Not only has it enabled the task force to broaden the scope of federal prosecutions, it has enabled it to establish INS as the conduit to the U.S. Attorney's office to handle them.

"All the intelligence we have indicates that foreign nationals are controlling a very large percentage of the wholesale quantities of narcotics in Western Washington," he said. "By assigning special agents to narcotics task forces the INS is acknowledging this fact and is establishing the INS in this arena."

Besides targeting Mexican organized crime operations, INS-cooperative operations have infiltrated and shut down Colombian cocaine distribution cells directed by the Cali drug cartel as well as led to the arrest of suspects with ties to major Eastern European organized crime groups.

"Our ability to recruit and retain informants, detain aliens that we suspect are removable, provide investigative leadership, and conduct far ranging interstate investigations targeting alien-led organized crime brings a new dimension," Spelsberg said.

Other creative task force policing

Using INS as the task force federal agency is not the only creative way the task force is combating meth and other drugs. To address the bigger picture of the damage drugs can inflict on society, the task force has a diverse membership—enabling it to gain access to other agencies' databases with relevant information not typically found in police databases as well as offer a broader range of expertise.

Besides Spelsberg and nine detectives from Thurston County; the Washington State Patrol; and the cities of Olympia, Tumwater, and Lacey, the task force also includes a research support staff member from the Washington National Guard, a caseworker from the Washington Department of Child Protective Services, two county deputy prosecutors, and members of the county health department.

Having an attorney on the scene of a bust not only increases the odds of a

conviction, it also speeds the process when officers have legal questions. Having Child Protective Services available enables the task force to prosecute adults for child endangerment as well as drug charges if children are found inside meth labs.

Chamberlain said detectives often come upon severely neglected children with filthy clothing, rotting teeth, lice, etc., and having social workers present enables the children to be put immediately into protective custody.

"Once parents get addicted to meth, it gets hold of them like no other drug I've ever seen," he said. "With other kinds of drug use, you see some level of parenting. With meth, parents are out of touch for days on end."

Meanwhile, the public health officers can deal with cleaning up meth labs, which are set up virtually anywhere from forests to rented vans and hotel rooms to ordinary homes in rural and residential areas. Much of the waste is highly flammable and explosive and can be corrosive enough to burn flesh off bones.

How INS' relationship evolved

The INS relationship with Thurston County began in 1999 when Spelsberg was transferred to the Olympia Alien Criminal Apprehension Program office in Olympia, the state capital in Thurston County.

"The mission of the Seattle District was to establish and maintain a meaningful INS presence, and I was directed to start working cooperatively with state, county, and local authorities in and around the cities of Olympia, Tumwater and Lacey," he said. "Eventually, I contacted Captain Chamberlain and offered INS support for their investigations."

Spelsberg and Special Agent James Shepherd began to assist the task force on a case-by-case basis. The two planned and executed several investigations with the task force in late 1999 and 2000, resulting in the arrest and federal prosecution of numerous Mexican drug traffickers.

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“The Department of Justice’s priority of reducing drug abuse was given new urgency by the terrorist attacks of six months ago. Law enforcement has long known of the strong linkages between terrorism and drug trafficking. Sept. 11 helped a wider audience of Americans see that the terrorist menace we face and the drug threat are often one and the same.

Terrorism and drugs go together like rats and the bubonic plague—they thrive in the same conditions, support each other, and feed off each other. Drug traffickers benefit from the paramilitary skills, access to weapons, and links to other clandestine groups that terrorists can provide. Terrorists, for their part, gain a source of revenue and expertise in money laundering from drug traffickers.”

— Attorney General John Ashcroft

HEADQUARTERS *News*

ZIGLAR ESTABLISHES PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICE TO IMPLEMENT ENTRY-EXIT PROGRAM

By Kimberly Weissman

COMMISSIONER James W. Ziglar recently established a Program Management Office to develop and implement an Entry-Exit Program to proactively address the security and economic needs of the nation.

After Sept. 11, INS pledged, under the leadership of Ziglar, to re-evaluate its enforcement

strategy to strike an effective balance between its dual mission of security and border facilitation.

"I have made the Entry-Exit Program a high priority of this agency as we create a system that will not only protect our citizens and secure our borders but also improve cross-border commerce and trade," he said.

On April 30, Ziglar announced plans to procure, in a full and open competition, the services and supplies to develop, deploy, and sustain an Entry-Exit Program. INS

plans to award one or more open market delivery contracts by late spring.

The Entry-Exit Program Team will be responsible for implementing an integrated Entry-Exit Program, including an automated system, which would use available data to record alien arrivals and departures.

By implementing an Entry-Exit Program, INS will be able to record overstay information and take steps to ensure that visitors to the United States comply with immigration law. In addition to strengthening the nation's borders, the Entry-Exit Program will enhance facilitation of legitimate

cross-border traffic and trade to ensure the continued economic viability of the United States.

The inter-agency Entry-Exit Program Team consists of 14 core members from INS, Department of Justice, Customs Service, Department of State, and Department of Transportation.

"The success of this program hinges on the ability of many agencies working together in a coordinated fashion to achieve a government-wide solution," said Robert A. Mocny, director of the Entry-Exit Program.

In accordance with the INS Data Management Improvement Act of 2000 (DMIA), a task force was created to evaluate how the flow of traffic at U.S. air, sea, and land-border ports of entry can be improved while enhancing security and implementing systems for data collection and data sharing.

The DMIA task force is comprised of 17 officials from six federal agencies, two state and local governmental groups, and nine private industry trade and travel organizations.

The Entry-Exit Program Team will work with state and local governments and industry leaders, such as those represented by the DMIA task force, to elicit their expertise and unique insight to address facilitation needs consistent with increased security concerns.

The INS Data Management Improvement Act of 2000 amended Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act to require the development of an integrated entry and exit data system.

Realizing the unique challenges posed at the different land, air, and seaports of entry, Congress set staggered deadlines for the Entry-Exit system to be operational at all air and seaports by December 31, 2003; at the 50 largest land ports of entry by December 31, 2004; and at remaining land ports of entry by December 31, 2005.

President Bush has requested \$362 million in the FY 2003 budget for initial funding of the system. The first phase of the project will begin later this year with collecting and matching the arrival and departure data of aliens from the visa

"The success of this program hinges on the ability of many agencies working together in a coordinated fashion to achieve a government-wide solution."

*—Robert A. Mocny,
director of the Entry-Exit Program*

ASHCROFT REQUESTS JUSTICE COMPONENTS FURTHER INCREASE INFORMATION-SHARING

ATTORNEY General John Ashcroft directed Justice Department components April 11, to take additional steps to increase coordination and sharing of information relating to terrorism.

The initiatives, developed following the terrorist attack of Sept. 11, are designed to further increase the effectiveness of the federal government, working together with state and local governments, to coordinate the use of information that could help prevent future acts of terrorism.

"Information is the best friend of prevention," Ashcroft said. "The Sept. 11 attacks demonstrate that the war on terrorism must be fought and won at all levels of government. To meet this continuing threat, law enforcement officials at all levels—federal, state, and local—must work together, coordinating information and leveraging resources in the joint effort to prevent and disrupt terrorist activity."

The prevention of terrorist activity is the overriding priority of the Department of Justice, he said, and the initiatives are directed at INS, FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, the department's Criminal Section, and the Marshals

Service as well as the Foreign Terrorist Tracking Task Force.

Last fall, the Attorney General directed department components to review their policies and procedures to ensure information-sharing, information analysis, and coordination of activities with other federal agencies and their state and local partners in the joint effort to prevent acts threatening public safety and national security.

Following the recommendations and progress reported to the Attorney General by Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson, the Attorney General commended the components for their substantial progress, and directed them to take several additional steps in analyzing information, sharing intelligence, and coordinating activities in the multi-front effort to combat terrorism.

These steps include expanding terrorist information in law enforcement databases, coordinating foreign terrorist information, establishing secure system for information coordination with state and local partners, analyzing foreign terrorist data, and creating standardized procedures for sharing of sensitive information.

CANADIAN OR AMERICAN?



Alert INS employees in Houlton, Maine, spotted a moose calf browsing on the shrubs in front of the Houlton Sector offices on April 11.

INS NEWS *of Note*

BORDER PATROL CHAPLAINS OFFER SUPPORT UNDER THE MOTTO 'VISIBLE AND AVAILABLE'

REMEMBER Father Mulcahey of the television series *M*A*S*H*? With love and acceptance—and without preaching—he was always present when stress became extreme and quietly served whenever and wherever members of the 4077th needed him.

“Father Mulcahey, was always ‘visible and available’—that is of key importance to a chaplain, and it is what we hope to accomplish through years of work within our sectors,” said San Diego Sector

Border Patrol Agent and Chaplain Brian Henderson. “We must be available but not insistent. We must be approachable and never aloof.”



San Diego Sector
Chaplain Brian
Henderson

Non-preachy, non-evangelical vision

Operating under the motto “Visible and Available,” the Border Patrol Chaplaincy Program operates under a non-preachy, non-evangelical vision and offers a broad range of support services.

“It is my job to be visible and available to everyone and anyone if they have any personal problems—not to preach or not to evangelize,” Henderson said.

From its inception, the chaplaincy program has focused on addressing vital managerial and agency-wide issues, including recruitment, retention, morale, and stress. Stress can be law enforcement’s hidden assailant and falls into several categories: personal life, the pressure of work, traumatic incidents on the job, the law enforcement agency itself, the operation of the criminal justice system, and the general public’s opinion of law enforcement officers.

“Last year I saw 393 people in my office. Fifty percent was work-stress related, and 50 percent was personal and family-related issues,” Henderson said.

Chaplains come at any hour, in all kinds of weather, just to listen, Henderson said. The sole purpose of the program is to “be a confidential source of help. I am the go-to guy to get them help.” Within the program, a chaplain can listen with empathy, give advice, and offer and give assistance while the agents are in the field or on duty.

History of the chaplaincy program

Henderson came up with the idea of the Border Patrol Chaplaincy Program after a friend of his, a Border Patrol agent, committed suicide in his backyard in 1988.

“It has affected me both on a personal and emotional level,” Henderson said. “Why did the law enforcement community let this go?”

Henderson first introduced the idea in 1994, and four years later, Headquarters called him to see if he would be interested in implementing a program.

“The Border Patrol’s program has a national policy similar to that of the FBI’s, with a mission to coordinate, facilitate a sector chaplain program made up of community clergy and community volunteer chaplains,” he said.

Henderson emphasized that the Border Patrol’s chaplaincy program seeks to meet the needs of all people of all different faiths, including Jewish and Muslim.

Service to all faiths

“We must address the faiths of all people in the Border Patrol,” he said. “We have chaplains of all denominations—Mormon, Muslim, and Jewish, not just Christian.”

Currently, the Border Patrol has chaplaincy programs in three sectors—Del Rio, Tucson, and

LIFECARE ASSISTS WITH FAMILY LIFE, HEALTH, EDUCATION, FINANCES, CAREER DEVELOPMENT

WHEN Gail Guest had to find a tutor for her son when he was having a hard time adjusting to high school, she turned to INS' LifeCare Program.

"A LifeCare counselor helped me identify options to address my son's situation and provided me with the names of learning centers and tutors," said Guest, now the Worklife Program manager for the INS.

LifeCare, a Department of Justice-sponsored program falling within the Worklife Program area, serves as a catalyst for providing a wide range of services on how to manage work and life situations.

INS was first introduced to LifeCare, Inc., a Connecticut-based company offering management services to human resource managers and employees in 1996. Originally, it was a dependent care service offering care for elders and children but has since broadened its scope to include counseling, education, and referral services addressing family life, health, education, finances, and career development.

"They go to where the resources are; they provide you with names and phone numbers that meet your criteria for whatever services you need," Guest said.

LifeCare's personalized services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through a professionally staffed call center. "The toll-free number connects you to counselors. They then triage your situation," she said.

Employees can also go to the Web site, do their own research, and proceed with their calls. An online Resource Center is one of the new additions to the Web site.

The Resource Center provides employees with faster, more secure access to information and referrals and to confidentially retrieve their information online—whether they originally requested information via telephone or online.

Employee users log in with a password and screen name and can personalize their Resource Center home page to their own needs.

Besides the Department of Justice, LifeCare also provides services to more than 1,200 corporations, government agencies, associations, and managed-care organizations.

To reach a LifeCare consultant, call 1-800-873-4636 (1-800-873-1322 for hearing impaired employees) or at go online to <http://www.LifeCare.com>

DRUGS

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"Several of the seizures were in excess of 10 pounds of meth, and all involved Mexican organized crime," Spelsberg said. "New records were being set with each successively larger seizure."

As a result, the Western States Information Network selected the Thurston County Narcotics Task Force as its Task Force of the Year for Western Washington in 2000. The following year, when Shepherd was selected to join the Joint Terrorism Task Force with the FBI in Seattle, Spelsberg was assigned to work full time at the TNT as the "HIDTA agent."

INS management support the key

"I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work with a group of highly motivated and capable detectives and to have the support of our management team," Spelsberg said. "Our management has provided the leadership and support necessary for us to expand the scope of our investigations and to work with the U.S. Attorney's office and others on cases that were previously left up to other agencies to handle."

Spelsberg attributes a great deal of the progress made by INS to the support of Supervisory Special Agent Norris E. Potter III in charge of Southwest Washington INS criminal investigations, and the Assistant District Director for Investigations Patricia A. Schmidt. Potter also pointed to the undercover work of INS Special Agent Daniel Hernandez.

"He has been helpful in operations with TNT and is working effectively with other task forces in southwest Washington," he said. "His work complements the undercover work of TNT Detective Tom Padukiewicz and others and increases the INS role in these investigations."

Spelsberg said he hopes to see more INS special agents assigned to narcotics task forces in HIDTA-designated counties.

"With the right team and the support of management, any INS office can do what we have done here in Thurston County," he said.



The task force includes a child protective services caseworker to make it easier for adults to be prosecuted for child endangerment if children are found inside meth labs.

INS NEWS FROM the Field

LAREDO DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAM EVOLVES INTO COMMUNITY RELATIONS SUCCESS

By Mike Herrera III

PRESENTATIONS at local Laredo high schools on the dangers of drug use have blossomed over the past 15 years into a successful Border Patrol community relations program aimed at keeping kids off drugs and in school with high grades.

"The program has made a tremendous difference in the community—making young people who do well scholastically role models and spreading the word about the dangers of drug use," said Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Oscar H. Garza Jr. "The Border Patrol recognition on their scholarship, college, and job applications has enabled many of our young people to get scholarships, grants, and first-rate jobs."

Many programs develop

From the Laredo Sector's Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDRP)—formed in 1986 and initially coordinated by Agent Mary Blevins and Supervisory Agent Jesus Garza—many successful programs have become reality. These include "Youth of the Month"; "Youth of the Year"; "Head of the Class"; U.S. Border Patrol Explorers; and school drug awareness programs and community events featuring two robots, Agent B-Smart and Agent B-Safe.

In 1987, Agent Marco Cordero came up with the idea of honoring one high school student who was doing great academically. From this evolved the "Youth of the Month." KGNS-TV, Laredo's ABC-NBC affiliate, and then newly elected State Representative Henry Cuellar were recruited to sponsor the project. A few years later Representative Cuellar recommended that the "Youth of the Year" program be implemented to enhance the "Youth of the Month." State Senator Judith Zaffirini also lent her support to the program.

A trip to Austin, Texas, to meet with the Governor and other state dignitaries is the highlight of the "Youth of the Year" recognition process.



Pictured from left to right are Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Oscar H. Garza Jr.; UISD Interim Superintendent Roberto Santos; State Senator Judith Zaffirini; a "Youth of the Month" recipient; and Tim Gutierrez, KGNS-TV anchor during a "Youth of the Month" reception.



DDRP Coordinator Roberto Flores (standing back) and Agent B-Safe (front center) join students at Zapata Elementary School during a school drug awareness program. The Laredo Sector has a Station in Zapata, Texas, a community 50 miles from Laredo.

"Without a doubt the most important participants in these youth-oriented programs have been the parents, the grandparents, and all family members that have contributed to the development of outstanding students in our community," Garza said. "We very much appreciate their commitment to these programs and the Explorers as well as all of the volunteer time that goes into producing such outstanding results."

In 1986, then Agent Jerry Tisdale started the Explorer program at Laredo South and later expanded to Laredo North, San Antonio,

U.S. BORDER PATROL LAREDO SECTOR CO-HOSTS 'GET SMART' GAME SHOW

UNITED Independent School District (UISD) produces a television game show called "Get Smart" in conjunction with the U.S. Border Patrol Laredo Sector Drug Demand Reduction Program.

The educational initiative is part of the UISD's Instructional Television Department, which is up and running every school year. The department will be producing two weekly television programs.

"Get Smart" is an academically oriented game show that features U.S. Border Patrol Robot Agent

B-Smart as a game host. Also, weekly special guest hosts get an opportunity to question the students during the course of the program. The show is been taped at the studios of Laredo's KHOY.

The featured contestants for the episodes are fifth grade students from various UISD schools. The show is assisted by the U.S. Border Patrol Drug Demand Reduction Coordinators Agents Cathy Edwards and Jeff Ryan.

LAREDO

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Hebbronville, and Freer high schools. Today, Explorer groups are well established at Laredo North, Laredo South, and Freer.

First-place recognitions

"Our Explorers have been active participants in community activities, Border Patrol functions, and statewide competitions where they have attained first-place recognitions in most events for the past 10 years," Garza said. "These young men and women have given Border Patrol a positive image throughout the agency and throughout the communities that we represent."

In 1994, Agent Ruben Garcia approached Garza about starting the "Head of the Class." The idea was presented to Chief Patrol Agent Jose E. Garza who approved it. Again, the district sought assistance from State Representative Cuellar and Mi Laredo 2000 and later Senator Zaffirini.

Many to thank

Garza said none of these programs would have succeeded had it not been for the special efforts of such agents as Eddie Alvarado, Ruben Banda, Ricardo Benavides, Arturo Betancourt, Mary Blevins, Marco Cordero, Rudy De Luna, Hector Escamillia, Bill Ferrone, Roberto Flores, Ruben Garcia, Jesus Garza, James Gonzalez, Erik S. Grubin, Walter B. King, Sam Langford, Rick Lopez, Nick Lopez, Santiago Martinez Jr., Adrian McNeil, Raul Nava, Maria R. Reyes, Elizabeth P. Rosales, Patrick Treviño, and J.R. Villarreal as well as present DDRP Coordinators Cathy Edwards and Jeff Ryan.

"Special thanks to Chief Patrol Agent Jose E. Garza who started the programs and supported



Agent Cathy Edwards, DDRP coordinator, visits with students at Laredo's Ruiz Elementary School during a drug awareness program.



Coordinator Agent Jeff Ryan, DDRP coordinator (standing right), joins teachers and students during a book reading program at Laredo's Tarver Elementary School. Students enjoyed the company of the U.S. Border Patrol's DDRP Agent B-Safe (front center).

them, and to Chief Patrol Agent Luis E. Barker and present Chief Patrol Agent John W. Montoya, who continued to support the continuing progress of other successful DDRP programs that benefit our youths in Laredo and surrounding communities," Oscar Garza said. "The Laredo Sector DDRP program looks forward to its sixteenth year of community programs for our youth."

GOOD NEWS INSide

MIAMI DISTRICT'S INNOVATIVE HONORS

The Miami District uses two innovative programs to recognize employee achievements.

The **Hero Program** uses the district director's weekly staff meeting to salute employees who have been recognized by Congressional offices, the American Immigration Lawyers Association, community-based organizations, or the public.

The **Service Star Program**, which runs on a point system, uses comment cards to solicit feedback on employee accomplishments. Employees receive 50 points for every comment card received, and prizes vary according to the total number of points accumulated. Employees choose their prizes—e.g., coffee mugs, T-shirts, baseball caps, etc.—and their prize is noted on the Intranet site.

AGENTS PARTICIPATE IN MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Agents **David Kimball, Arturo Velez, Eligio Rivas, Lenin Bejar, Leslie Waters, James Penny, and Fred Baker** participated April 20 in the Law Enforcement Memorial Day Ceremonies sponsored by the City of

Riverside Police Department.

In addition to a non-denominational memorial service and wreath laying, Agents Waters and Kimball participated in a walk-by to surviving family members of those officers killed in the line of duty in Riverside County, Calif.



Agents Leslie Waters (middle) and David Kimball (right) saluting surviving family members of officers killed in the line of duty in Riverside County, Calif.

BALTIMORE DISTRICT BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT BENEFITS CANCER RESEARCH, SPECIAL OLYMPICS

WHAT a better way to raise money for a cause than some good old-fashioned competition! That's just what some INS employees at the Baltimore District did. INS officer Jim Beard was the organizer of a multi-agency law enforcement basketball tournament that raises money for cancer research and the Special Olympics.

"This is our fifth year taking part in this event. When I worked at Wicomico County Correctional Facility, I lost two supervisors within a year to cancer," he said. "I've been doing a lot of little tournaments, and thought, why can't we raise money for the American Cancer Society."

Beard's event, called "Shoot for a Cure: Spread our Love," is a week-long event gathering law enforcement officers from such agencies as the Secret Service, Ocean City (Md.) Police Department, Drug Enforcement Agency, and New York City Police Department.

"This is a good example of how as public servants we are also active in the very communities we serve," Baltimore District Director Don Crocetti said.

This year's event took place April 9-14 and raised \$3,000 to benefit the Lower Shore Special Olympics and the Baltimore Hope Lodge, which is affiliated with the American Cancer Society.

The teams play a total of 31 games and the event is a double-bracket tournament with a winners' bracket and a losers' bracket.

The winner of the tournament must win five games. This year's winner: Prince George's County (Md.) Police Department.

The INS team members also won big as the event's sponsor—and as the creators of a family event with a very festive atmosphere.

"I wanted this to be focused on family events, so we added flea markets, food, door prizes—you name it, we got it," Beard said.

The event also featured a sports auction, including autographed sports memorabilia, and received support from local restaurants and stores that provided monetary donations as well as gift certificates.

"Local businesses really contribute," he said. "We get gift certificates for up to \$50 for dinner and donated DVDs."

Last year's event raised more than \$5,500 and drew in more than 18 teams of law enforcement officers. This year's event was scaled down somewhat due to a lack of manpower.

"A lot of people from INS and local police departments helped out—but with the events of Sept. 11," Beard said, noting next year he'd like to see the event larger than this year's and possibly recruit a sports figure to support the cause of the tournament.

The "Shoot for a Cure" committee and volunteers began planning the event back in January. Throughout the year, the team raised money for the event thorough car washes and bake sales. Beard praised his fellow employees for their support.